

Russell L. Smith, Jr.
4216 Thorn Ridge Road
Winston Salem, North Carolina 27106
336-922-1214 jdrsmith@aol.com

January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express to you my views regarding the antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft. After years of legal battles, I'm happy to see a settlement was finally agreed upon. Spending any more time and effort on this issue is not only a waste of taxpayers money, but a waste of time that should be spent moving forward in the future of technology.

Prior to my retirement, I worked in the IT sector of the manufacturing industry and saw the advances that Microsoft has been able to create with its innovative technology. It is unfortunate that Microsoft was punished for its capabilities.

The settlements terms, sharing code, changing licensing practices, allowing oversight, etc., are definitely fair and reasonable. I support your decision to settle, as well as the agreed upon terms and sincerely hope that no further action will be taken at any level against Microsoft related to this lawsuit.

Sincerely,


Russell Smith